

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION**

KENNETH ROBINSON,

Plaintiff,

v.

HOME DEPOT USA, INC.,

Defendant.

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Civil Action No. _____

NOTICE OF REMOVAL

Defendant Home Depot U.S.A., Inc. (“Home Depot”) files this Notice of Removal pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441 and 1446, and in support thereof states as follows:

COMMENCEMENT, SERVICE, AND CONSENT

1. On January 25, 2022, Plaintiff Kenneth Robinson (“Plaintiff”) commenced this action by filing his Original Petition in the 189th Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas. The case is styled Cause No. 202204872, *Kenneth Robinson v. Home Depot U.S.A., Inc.*, in the 189th Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas.

2. Plaintiff served Home Depot on February 7, 2022. Home Depot filed its answer in state court on February 28, 2022.

3. This Notice of Removal is filed less than one year from commencement of this action and within thirty days after Home Depot’s receipt through service and otherwise of a copy of the initial pleading setting forth the claim for relief upon which such action or proceeding is based and is thus timely under 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b).

GROUND FOR REMOVAL

4. Home Depot is entitled to remove the state court action to this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332, 1441, and 1446 because this is a civil action involving an amount in controversy exceeding \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs, between parties with diverse citizenship.

A. Diversity of Citizenship

5. There is complete diversity of citizenship between Plaintiff and Home Depot.

6. Plaintiff is a citizen of Texas.¹

7. Home Depot is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Georgia.²

B. Amount in Controversy

8. In assessing whether the amount in controversy jurisdictional requirement has been met, the Court should consider Plaintiff's pleadings, the notice of removal, and apply "common sense."³ This is a personal injury case where Plaintiff claims he suffered disabling injuries due to an alleged injury that occurred while Plaintiff was working in the normal course and scope of his duty at Home Depot.⁴ Plaintiff's Original Petition states that he seeks monetary relief in excess of \$1,000,000.00.⁵ Plaintiff requests damages including, but not limited to, his past and future medical expenses, lost earning capacity, past and future mental anguish, disfigurement, interest and costs.⁶ Hence, an independent analysis of Plaintiff's Original Petition reveals that there is clearly more than \$75,000 in controversy.⁷

¹ Plaintiff's Original Petition at ¶ 2.

² See *Story v. Home Depot, U.S.A., Inc.*, No. 4:05-CV-054-A, 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 10306, at *1-2 (N.D. Tex. May 7, 2005) ("Home Depot [is] a Delaware corporation having its principal place of business in Georgia.").

³ See *Chapman v. Powermatic, Inc.*, 969 F.2d 160, 163, n.6 (5th Cir. 1992).

⁴ Plaintiff's Original Petition at ¶ 9.

⁵ Plaintiff's Original Petition at Prayer.

⁶ Plaintiff's Original Petition at ¶15.

⁷ *De Aguilar v. Boeing Co.*, 47 F.3d 1404, 1412-13 (5th Cir. 1995), *cert. denied*, 516 U.S. 865 ("In [Texas], a plaintiff, in a case for unliquidated damages, cannot, absent a further showing, avoid removal . . . where

VENUE

8. Venue lies in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441(a) and 1446(a) because Plaintiff filed the action in a state court that is within this judicial district and division.

NOTICE

9. Home Depot will give notice of the filing of this Notice of Removal to all parties of record pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d). Home Depot will also file with the clerk of the state court and will serve upon Plaintiff's counsel a notice of the filing of this Notice of Removal.

JURY DEMAND

10. Plaintiff did not request a jury in his Original Petition.

EXHIBITS TO NOTICE OF REMOVAL

11. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a) and Local Rule 81, attached to this Notice is an index of all matters being filed with this Notice, which includes the following documents:

- A. Plaintiff's Original Petition – *Exhibit A*
- B. Return of Service – *Exhibit B*
- C. Defendant Home Depot U.S.A., Inc.'s Original Answer and Affirmative Defenses – *Exhibit C*
- D. Docket Sheet – *Exhibit D*
- E. Counsel of Record – *Exhibit E*

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Defendant Home Depot U.S.A., Inc., pursuant to the statutes cited herein and in conformity with the requirements set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 1446, removes this action from the 189th Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas to this Court.

defendants are able to show that it is facially apparent that the amount in controversy exceeds [\$75,000]."); *see also e.g., Manguno v. Prudential Prop. & Cas. Ins. Co.*, 276 F.3d 720, 724 (5th Cir. 2002).

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Jason R. Bernhardt

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ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on March 7, 2022 a true and correct copy of the foregoing was electronically served on all counsel of record.

/s/ Jason R. Bernhardt

Jason R. Bernhardt